

Today's brief will be shorter, because the briefer is flying today. I will confine my attention to a few major issues, and skirt over issues that are settled. The major issues are the potential storms in the middle of next week, and the cloudiness issue for Saturday.

Surface weather through Sunday looks flyable. The big issue is the weather systems coming up from the southwest along the subtropical jet, which, by early next week, displays a strongly tilted (southwest to northeast) trough structure from California to the northeast. Models still differ, though Monday looks good, with the only system passing harmlessly well to the south of us. For Tuesday, if the Euro model is to be believed, we have a strong low off the southeast Massachusetts coast, propagating north northeastward. This does not look good. However, the GFS has a weaker system substantially farther south. Because of the lack of convergence in the models, I think it is still too early to say anything really definitive about Tuesday.

There is still a clear patch in the total cloudiness forecast in the northeastern US, including a region off the coast. However, it has gotten substantially smaller. Not only are the high clouds encroaching a bit faster than yesterday's forecast from the west, but there appears to be some significant middle cloud from a trailing front related to a wave in northern Canada. Leslie Lait's modestly named "fake" satellite imagery suggests considerable optical depth to this system (and the fact that it is middle cloud and that there is a distinct system associated with it reinforces this). The implication is that, though doing outflow up and down over the Atlantic makes sense (get a little closer to the coast if possible), we might want to rethink doing the TES track, which now looks cloudy. Note also that we are using 12Z forecasts, and things promise to get worse by 18Z (0Z on Sunday is clearly worse).

Rather than type in all the links, I will simply refer you to the web address of where I am getting this information on Saturday's clouds. For the cloud assessment, see:

http://bocachica.arc.nasa.gov/PAVE/nmc_rh_omega_plots.html

Also check out the cloud and relative humidity forecasts, also on bocachica.

Leslie's products are at

http://code916.gsfc.nasa.gov/Missions/AVE/2005-01/ave_main.php